

# Loniu language

**Loniu** is an Austronesian language spoken along the southern coast of Los Negros Island in the Manus Province, immediately east of Manus Island in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea. Loniu is spoken in the villages of Loniu and Lolak, and there are estimated to be 450–500 native speakers, although some live in other Manus villages or on the mainland of PNG.<sup>[1]</sup>

Loniu generally fits with most of the observations made about Oceanic languages, specifically the Admiralty Islands languages.<sup>[3][4][5][6][7]</sup> The six morphosyntactic features of 'Type B' Oceanic Languages (which include the Admiralties languages) as noted by Ross are found in Loniu. The language is essentially SVO and contains prepositions.

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## Phonology

### Consonant Phonemes

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p	t		k	
Rounded stop	p <sup>w</sup>				
Affricate			tʃ		
Fricative		s			
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Rounded nasal	m <sup>w</sup>				
Lateral Approximant		l			
Trill		r			
Approximant	w		j		

Loniu	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Los Negros Island, Manus Province
Native speakers	(450–500 <sup>[1]</sup> cited 1994)
Language family	<div>Austronesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Admiralty Islands<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Admiralty Islands<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manus<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>West Manus<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Loniu–Mokerang<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Loniu</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	los
Glottolog	loni1238 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/loni1238</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

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## Vowel Phonemes

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid tense	e		o
Mid lax	ɛ		ɔ

## References

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### Notes

1. Hamel (1994)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Loniu" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/loni1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Capell, Arthur (1971). *The Austronesian languages of Australian New Guinea*. The Hague: Mouton. pp. 240–340.
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6. Healey, Alan (1976). *Austronesian languages: Admiralty Islands area*. Canberra.
7. Ross, M.D. (1988). "Proto Oceanic and the Austronesian languages of Western Melanesia". *Pacific Linguistics*. **C-98**.

### Sources

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- Hamel, Patricia J. (1994). *A Grammar and Lexicon of Loniu, Papua New Guinea*. Pacific Linguistics Series C-103. Canberra: The Australian National University. doi:10.15144/PL-C103 (<https://doi.org/10.15144%2FPL-C103>). hdl:1885/145798 (<https://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F145798>).

## External links

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- [Kaipuleohone's Robert Blust collection](#) includes [written](#) and [recorded materials](#) from Loniu

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